

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
Lansing, Michigan
November 17, 2010

Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC), created by said act, met at the Aeronautics Building, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing Michigan, on Wednesday, November 17, 2010, commencing at the hour of approximately 10:00 a.m.

Members Present

James Collins, Chair
Russ Kavalhuna, Vice Chair
Sidney Adams, Commissioner
Terry Everman, Commissioner
Jonathon Freye, Commissioner
Jim Shell, Legal Counsel
Rob Abent, MAC Director

Members Absent

Dan Atkinson, Designee – MSP
Scott Heather, Designee – MDNRE
Leon Hank, Designee – MDOT
Robert Johnston, Designee – DMVA

Staff Present

Carol Aldrich
David Baker
Neal Barncard
Roxie Burnham
Rick Carlson
Randy Collier
Gerry Edwards
Jennifer Forbes
Rick Hammond
Tom Krashen
Molly Lamrouex
Pauline Misjak
Jim Nestell
Mark Noel
Susan Panetta
John Pierce
Brian Rochon
Steve Schultz
Ralph Sims
Tom Smith
Mike Soper
Kenyon Steiner
Lorraine White

Also Present

George Eyster, MPAOA
Eric Jaroch, Roscommon County Airport
Vic Johnston, MPAOA
Kent Maurer, Jackson County-Reynolds
John Mayfield, FAA
Jeff Nagel, MBS
Clint Nemeth, RW Armstrong
John Strehl, Antrim County Airport
Ray Vander Roest, MPAOA
Steve Zelle, MPAOA



I. OPENING REMARKS

The November 17, 2010, Michigan Aeronautics Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Collins at 10:00 a.m.

II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Chairman Collins asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the September 15, 2010 meeting. Moved by Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Everman to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2010 meeting as written. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Commissioner Collins cited the meeting dates for 2011. He feels we should give some consideration to not having the November during deer hunting season. Director Abent indicated that in the past, two meetings would be held outside of Lansing; Chairman Collins added that the by-laws require us to have at least 2 meetings off-site, adding that the change was due to the budget constraints. Director Abent mentioned an offer by Jeff Nagle, MBS Airport Manager and current President of MAAE, to host a meeting in the future. This will be taken into consideration. Moved by Commissioner Everman and seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the meeting schedule for 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Collins reminded the Commissioners that the March 2011 meeting is a joint meeting with the State Transportation Commission; that meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. and the Michigan Aeronautics Commission will follow at 10:00 a.m.

- C. Chairman Collins asked Mr. Dave Baker to present the airport grants. Mr. Baker gave an overview of the 11 projects for funding approval.

- 1. Fitch H. Beach Municipal Airport, Charlotte
- 2. Gladwin Zettel Memorial Airport, Gladwin
- 3. Grand Haven Memorial Airpark, Grand Haven
- 4. Oceana County Airport, Hart
- 5. Tulip City Airport, Holland
- 6. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain
- 7. Jackson County – Reynolds Field, Jackson
- 8. Price's Airport, Linden
- 9. Brooks Field, Marshall
- 10. Owosso Community Airport, Owosso
- 11. St. Clair County International Airport, Port Huron

Commissioner Everman inquired about Price's Airport in Linden, specifically the terminal building, asking how it will function with the public. Mr. Baker responded saying that as a state owned airport, it has the requirement to have public use facilities. Currently the building is being used as terminal operations. We have been working, for several years, to make it into a facility that could serve both the community and



the general public. An agreement was made and construction has started. It will be a public use building.

Moved by Commissioner Adams and supported by Commissioner Kavalhuna to approve the 11 transfers as presented by Mr. Baker. The motion passed unanimously.

III. REPORTS

A. Unimproved Airstrip Licenses Rules Update

Chairman Collins asked Mr. Rick Hammond to give the report.

Rick started his report saying it was an update from the September meeting, where the Commission authorized the undertaking of rules revisions that would add a new class of public use airports that is being called Unimproved Airstrips. This reestablishes the older class D standards with the same dimensional requirements of basic utility airports currently licensed. He spoke of the draft rules, the public hearing phase, a regulatory impact statement and the rulemaking policy and analysis.

A public hearing has been scheduled for December 22, 2010 in the Aeronautics Auditorium; the public is invited to attend. A court reporter is not needed for this hearing; staff will be used for that function. He also has been speaking with airport owner groups to get their concerns on other things not addressed. The process is moving along quickly.

Mr. Hammond gave the time frame and procedure involved in the process. Chairman Collins thanked him for his report.

B. MAC Director's Report

Chairman Collins asked Director Abent to give his report.

Director Abent began his report thanking the Commission. He mentioned the updated Commissioner roster. This is notable today as Commissioner Freye is attending his first meeting. Director Abent also mentioned the new license plate "Fly Michigan." They are available to purchase on-line and through our office.

Director Abent discussed the contents of his report: budget update, changes in the agency, recent events, a new Commissioner from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, and agency retirements.

He started with the budget update. For aviation fuel tax for the year ending October 31, 2010, we have a 4.82% increase, which is good news, it is basically level. However, we are still down 11% over the past five years. Director Abent shared graphs showing the revenue, cost and shortfall. He indicated a reason why the revenue is short; also showing a graph representing the declining revenues to the area funds. We are no longer able to maintain a budget beneath the current revenues. He



emphasized how important this is; we have been staying below revenue and have built a small fund balance. We need to make some changes in the next few years and will look at our core services and how we will reorganize to accommodate the declining revenues.

Director Abent discussed two recent events, the Pellston Airport groundbreaking on October 6, and an MBAA meeting on October 8.

He also indicated that Mr. Dennis Fedewa is no longer with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment; Scott Heather will be replacing him on the Aeronautics Commission. Director Abent anticipates that Mr. Heather will be attending the January meeting.

Director Abent discussed the upcoming retirements within the Bureau. This number represents 20% of the Aeronautics staff. He asked those present to stand and be recognized. Those retiring are: Roxie Burnham, Mark Dontje, Gerry Edwards, Susan Panetta, John Pierce, Sue Seal, and Kenyon Steiner. Director Abent also announced that he will be retiring.

Commissioner Adams moved that an MAC Award of Excellence be presented to Director Abent, supported by Commissioner Everman. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Collins asked Director Abent and Vice Chair Kavalhuna to join him at the podium to make the presentation.

Commissioner Collins spoke of the award and read the plaque. Director Abent thanked the Commission. Vice Chairman Kavalhuna added his compliments and thanks to the staff and public service members who are retiring. He is very appreciative of the work done.

Commissioner Everman reiterated his thanks for the Aeronautics staff for the efforts put forth, adding that Director Abent has been great work with and great to be around. The organization will miss him.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Mayfield, FAA, recognized Director Abent and his retiring staff. He added that we are at a new beginning with the FAA and MDOT, and Director Abent is a big part of that. He will miss him being here and thanked him for his service.

Jeff Nagel, MBS Airport and current President of the MAAE thanked the commission for giving Director Abent the award. He echoed the sentiments that the retiring staff have all played a critical role in the organization. He thanked Director Abent on behalf of MAAE, especially in regarding to funding issues.

Chairman Collins announced that the next meeting will be held January 26, 2011.



The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Director

Chairman

Dated _____

